

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
CAPEHART SINGLE-FAMILY HOME
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5522)
Montana Drive
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-DH

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Montana Drive, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622400.4947720
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1959

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 5522 was originally a two-family (duplex) building providing 2110 square feet of Company Grade Officer housing, later remodeled into a single-family residence.

Project Information: Building No. 5522 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
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1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Capehart Single-Family Home (Building No. 5522)

Layout

Building No. 5522 is a 2,110 square-foot, two-story, wood-frame building with a low-pitched gable roof. On the exterior, each half of the symmetrical building mirrors the other, reflecting the building's original duplex configuration. Overall, it is rectangular in plan, with the ground floor level clad in brick veneer while the upper story is clad in vinyl siding. It is unknown what the original fabric of the building is. On the rear facade, the brick façade is interrupted with a strong entrance/fenestration sequence: set within a painted wood panel inset is an entry door, next to which occurs a Chicago-style window unit (double hung windows flanking a central fixed light picture window). Above this, at the second floor level, the windows reverse the Chicago theme, with narrow fixed glass panels flanking a central double hung window. At the front of the building, roughly two-thirds of the ground level brick façade is again interrupted, this time by 1'-3" indentation. The recessed area is clad in scored, vertical wood siding, and the front entrance door and a horizontally-sliding kitchen window puncture this plane. At the upper level, however, the vinyl façade is punctured only by a single horizontal sliding bathroom window and one of the "reverse" Chicago windows, which occurs above the picture window on the lower level. At each gabled-end, the facade is punctured by a single, narrow, double hung window centered on the second floor plane.

Within the overall structure, an entrance hall leads from the front door to a living/dining area, oriented toward the rear of the unit. Opening off the entrance hall is a kitchen, a utility room, and a staircase leading to the second level, where the bedrooms are located.

Building No. 5522 is built atop a concrete block, chain-wall foundation. At the front of the building occur a single detached, double garage that contains 515 square feet of space. The garage is one-story, wood frame structure, clad in scored, vertical wood siding. Its low-pitched, gable roof is proportionately identical to the one on the main building.

Alterations/Additions

The second story of Building No. 5522 was clad in vinyl siding circa 1985.

Function

Building No. 5522 provided housing facilities for Company Grade officers and their families.

Significance

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make the Strategic Air Command (SAC) operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the exceptional instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among which one of the more identifiable would be the Capehart Single-Family Home. Building No. 5522 provided comfortable housing for a targeted segment of the military population and their families, all within close proximity to the base operational

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areas, where that population could be ready to go into action at a moment's notice. Toward that end, it must be said that Building No. 5522 played an important part in the Plattsburgh AFB Cold-War mission.

Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for Capehart Single-Family Home, Building No. 5522, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace....is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

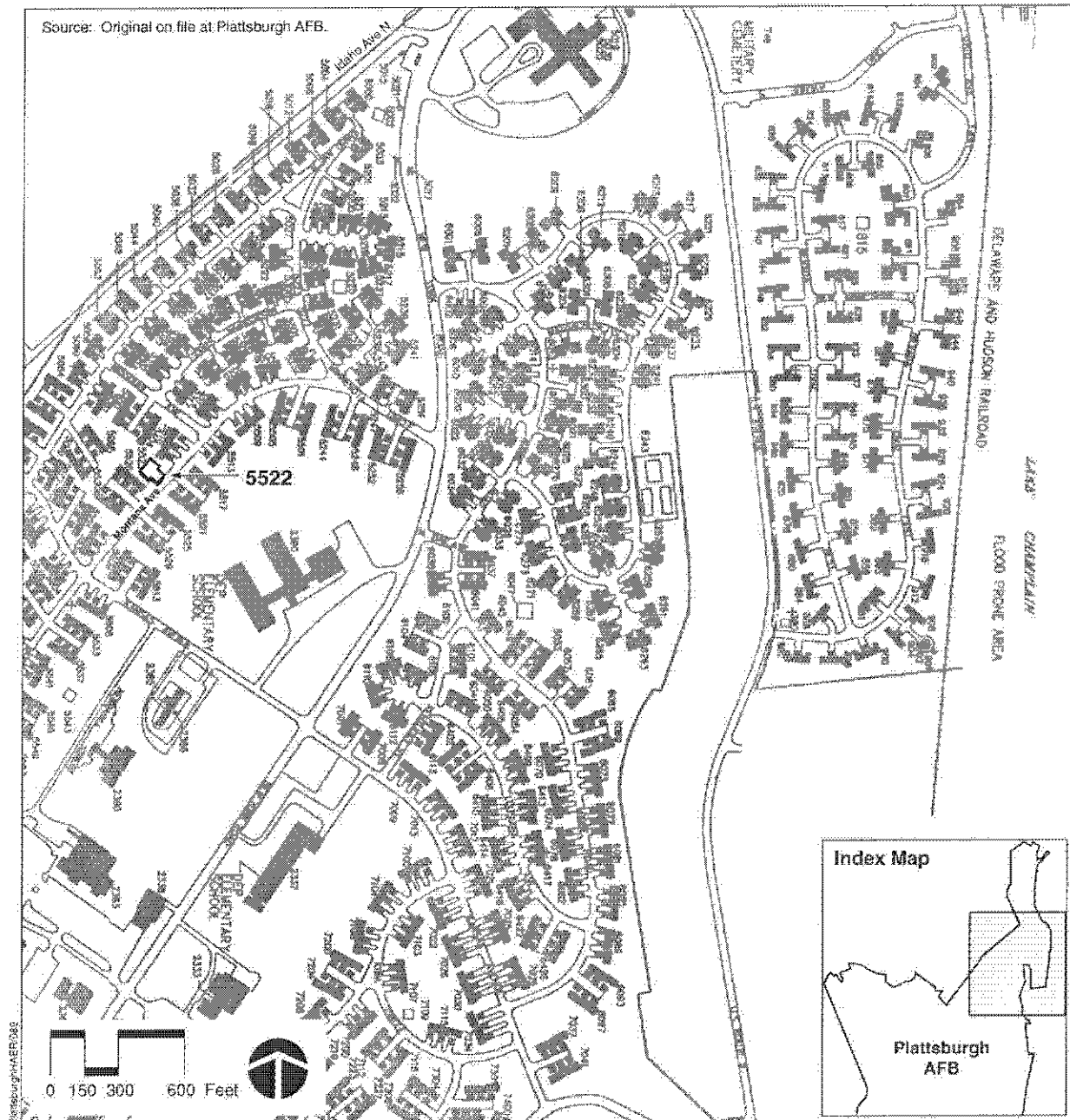
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

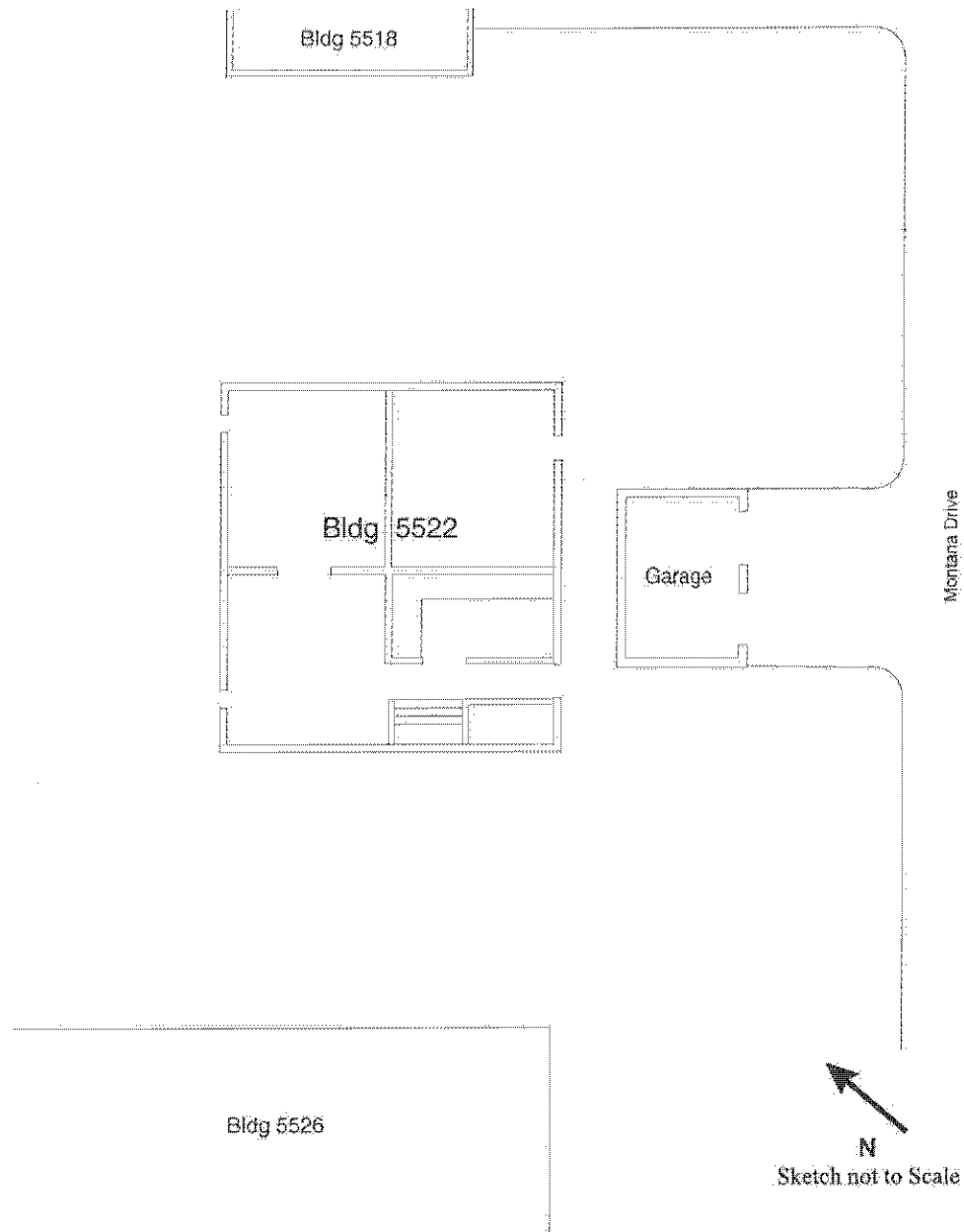
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

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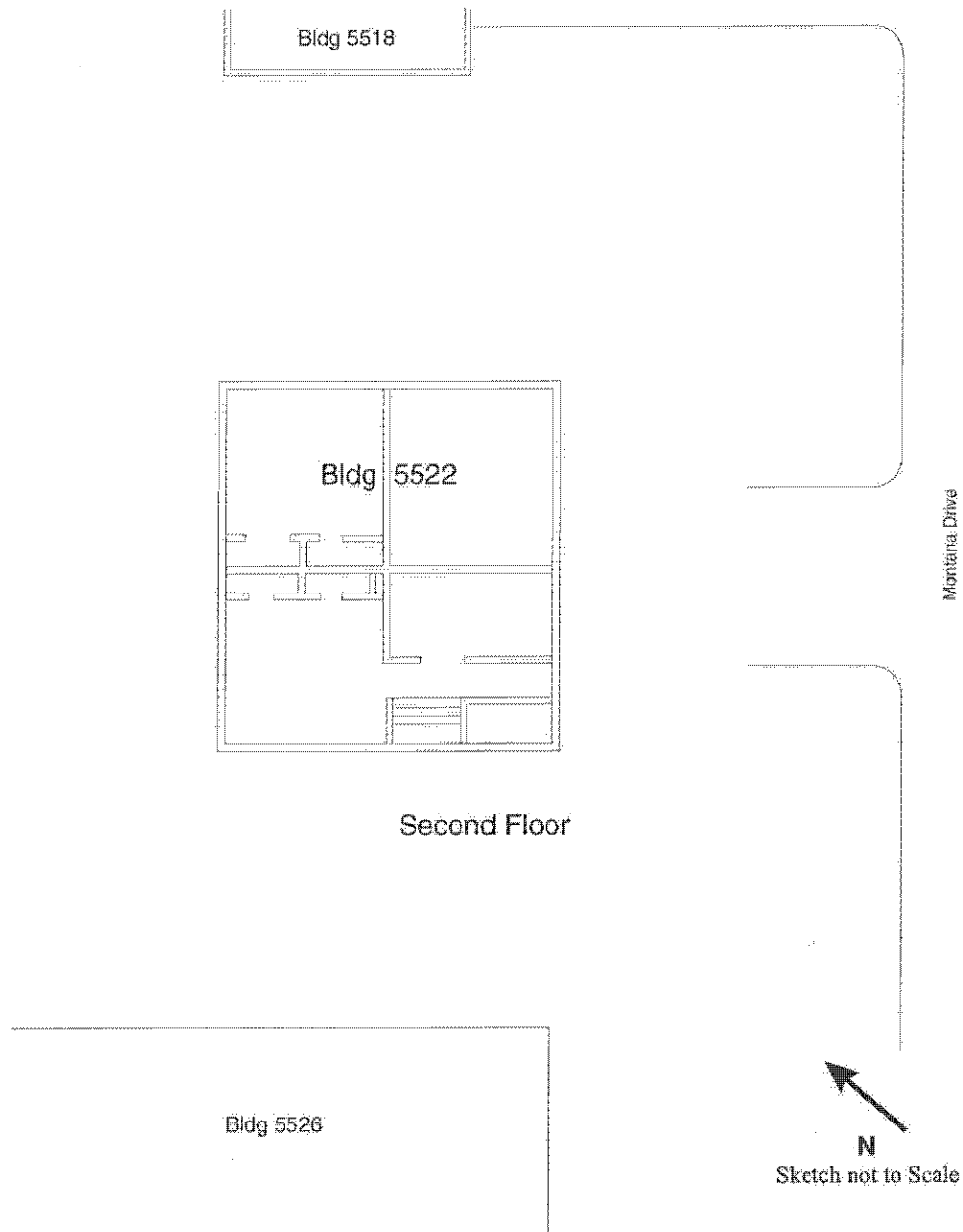
Location Map for Capehart Single-Family Home, Building No. 5522
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SKETCH PLAN – CAPEHART SINGLE FAMILY HOME, FIRST FLOOR
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5522)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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SKETCH PLAN — CAPEHART SINGLE FAMILY HOME, SECOND FLOOR
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5522)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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